

Testimony on House Bill 2607
presented to
House Committee on Health and Human Services
by
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February 10, 2016

Chairman Hawkins and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to speak in support of HB 2607.

HB 2607 amends K.S.A. 65-516 pertaining to restrictions on persons maintaining, residing, working or volunteering in a child care facility. The bill expands the list of prohibitions to having been convicted or adjudicated of a crime that requires registration as a sex offender under the Kansas offender registration act, as a sex offender in another state, or a sex offender on the national sex offender registry. Additionally, the current prohibition against individuals listed on the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) is expanded to include individuals listed on the child abuse and neglect registry maintained by any other state or the federal government.

The proposed changes are necessary to comply with new requirements for States found in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-186) (also referred to as Reauthorization). More importantly, background check requirements are protections intended to reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to children while in regulated, out of home child care settings. Conducting searches of registries maintained by other states reduces the likelihood that an individual prohibited in another state would have access to children in Kansas child care facilities.

The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) serves as lead agency for the CCDBG. KDHE child care facility licensing requirements serve as the foundational health and safety standards for the purposes of meeting CCDBG requirements. KDHE and DCF are working jointly on mutual aspects of the Reauthorization including this proposed legislation.

KDHE respectfully recommends deleting “*with the*” found on page 2, line 5:

*(3) has been convicted or adjudicated of a crime that requires registration as a sex offender
~~with the~~ under the Kansas offender registration act, K.S.A. 22-4901 et seq., and amendments
thereto, as a sex offender in any other state or as a sex offender on the national sex offender
registry*

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to explain the benefits of this bill. I will now stand for questions.